

REMARKS

The Examiner has allowed claims 23-49. Claims 23, 25, 28-35, 37, 41, and 44 stand currently amended. Claims 50-60 stand newly added. Claims 46-49 stand currently canceled. Claims 1-22 stand previously canceled. Claims 23-45 and 50-60 are currently pending. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

I. CLAIMS 23-45 AND 50-60

Applicants assert that new claims 23-45 and 50-60 are novel and non-obvious. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request Examiner allow claims 23-45 and 50-60.

Based upon the above remarks, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene LeDonne – Reg. No. 35,930
Joseph W. Treloar – Reg. No. 60,975
REEDSMITH LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Tel.: 212.521.5400

EL:JWT

500343.20289